developed Arjun tank which is world-class, with a potential export market;

(b) whether the minor flaws pointed out by the Army from time to time have been rectified and whether such rectifications are a continuing process;

(c) the reasons for which orders have not been placed for it; and

(d) whether foreign arms lobbies are interested in delaying and, if possible, killing this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE AND DEPTT. OF DEFENCE RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The main battle tank is undergoing final phase of trials. Most of the improvements suggested by the Services have been incorporated. Product improvement for weapon system is however a continuous process. The Arjun tank has given excellent performance in trials held during Aug-Oct. 1995. The Army is expected to give go-ahead for production shortly. Action for technology transfer to production agency and planning for productionisation are already under progress.

(d) Government have not come across any direct evidence in this regard.

"इन्टर-सिटी" एक्सप्रेस रेलगाड़ी का प्रचालन

431. **श्री राजूभाई ए० परमार: क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:**

(क) सरकार द्वारा "इन्टर-सिटी" एक्सप्रेस के प्रचालन के लिए क्या मानदण्ड नियत किया गया है और एक गंतव्य स्थान से दूसरे गंतव्य स्थान तक आने-जाने के लिए क्या समय-सीमा निर्धारित की गयी है;

(ख) विभिन्न राज्यों से "इन्टर-सिटी" एक्सप्रेस शुरू करने के लिए सरकार को कितने प्रस्ताव मिले हैं;

(ग) सरकार को पश्चिमी रेलवे के अंतर्गत गांधी धाम-राजकोट, मुम्बई, सूरत, राजकोट, जामनगर-पोरबन्दर के रास्ते एक नयी "इन्टर-सिटी" एक्सप्रेस शुरू करने के लिए अब तक कितने प्रस्ताव मिले हैं;

(घ) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है और इस संबंध में सरकार की प्रतिक्रिया क्या है; और

(ङ) यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सुरेश कलमाडी): (क) दो स्थलों के बीच दिन में इंटर सिटी एक्सप्रेस गाड़ियां चलाने के बारे में यात्री यातायात की नियमित मात्रा, चालन समय, मार्ग, टर्मिनल क्षमता की उपलब्धता सहित परिचालनिक कारकों को ध्यान में रखते हुए इस प्रकार से योजना बनाई जाती है कि गाड़ी एक स्थल से प्रातः चल सके और उसी दिन शाम/रात्रि में वापिस आ सके।

(ख) और (ग) इस संबंध में कुछ अभ्यावेदन प्राप्त हुए हैं, तथापि, ऐसे अभ्यावेदनों के संबंध में आंकड़े नहीं रखे जाते हैं क्योंकि गाड़ियों की राज्य-वार योजना नहीं बनाई जाती है।

(घ) और (ङ) इन मांगों की जांच की गई है परन्तु वे परिचालनिक कठिनाइयों तथा संसाधनों की तंगी के कारण व्यावहारिक नहीं पायी गयीं।

Supreme Court's direction on Accountability of Political Parties

432. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Supreme Court has in an order issued on the 20th July, 1995, requested Parliament and Government to lay down rules to enforce greater accountability and better account keeping in collection and disbursement of funds by political parties in election to Parliament and State Legislatures;

(b) if so, what were the precise observations and suggestions made by the apex court; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) The Supreme Court in its judgement in the matter of Shri Gajanan Krishnaji Bapat and another Vs Dattaji Raghobaji Meghe, and others has observed that it would be appropriate for the Legislature or the Election Commission to intervene and prescribed by Rules the requirement of maintaining true and correct account of the receipt and expenditure by the political parties by disclosing the source of receipts as well.

(c) In view of already existing provisions of Income Tax Act, 1961 relating to political parties there is no further proposal, as yet, to make provisions in Election Laws for maintenance and audit of accounts of political parties.

Redressal of Public Grievances

433. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the thousands of letters that appear in the newspapers everyday relating to grievances such as inadequate provision about various civic amenities, telephone complaints, non-refund of earnest money by various agencies such as DDA or housing boards, water supply, acts of corruption in various offices, delays etc. and these complaints remain unattended leading to dissatisfaction among public; and

(b) whether Government have constituted or purpose to constitute an authority/agency to bring these complaints to the notice of the concerned authorities and ensure quick action including acknowledgment and reply-back to the affected persons if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SMT. MARGARET ALVA): (a) The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and pensions has issued instructions to all Ministries/Departments of Government to regularly examine the grievances columns appearing in newspapers for picking up cases which relate to them. The instructions cover all Ministries/Departments/Offices of the Government. Ministries/Departments have been asked to take quick action for redressing the grievances picked up from columns of newspapers in a month's time and to inform the complainant of the action taken by way of redressal. Where redressal is likely to take longer, an interim reply is required to be sent to the complainant explaining the steps taken and assuring that further necessary action is being taken in the matter. The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances is the Chief coordinating agency for redress of public grievances arising from the work of Ministries/Departments and other organisations of the Government of India. The role of coordination consists mainly in laying down broad policy guidelines for the institutionalisation of the grievance redress system in each organisation. The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances deals with all complaints other than those relating to Railways, telecommunications, Posts, Public Sector Banks, Insurance Companies, Ministry of Urban Development including Delhi Development Authority, Ministry of Surface Transport and Ministry of Civil Aviation which are handled by the Directorate of public Grievances under the Cabinet Secretariat. Those complaints which relate to the States/UTs are transferred to them for remedial action at their end.

(b) As most of the grievances arise at the field level, their actual redressal has necessarily to come from agencies functioning at the local level which are